Which, of a weak and niggardly projection[8],
Doth like a miser, spoil his coat, with scanting
A little cloth.

KING. Think we king Harry strong;
And, princes, look, you strongly arm to meet him.
The kindred of him hath been flesh'd upon us;
And he is bred out of that bloody strain[9],
That haunted us[1] in our familiar paths:
Witness our too much memorable shame,
When Cressy battle fatally was struck[2],

[8] Which, of a weak and niggardly projection,] This passage, as it stands, is so perplexed, that I formerly suspected it to be corrupt. If *which* be referred to *proportions of defence*, (and I do not see to what else it can be referred,) the construction will be—" which *proportions* of defence, of a weak and niggardly projection, spoils *his coat*, like a miser," &c.

If our author had written—

' *While oft* a weak and niggardly projection
"Doth," &c.

The reasoning would then be clear.—In cases of defence, it is best to imagine the enemy more powerful than he seems to be: by this means, we make more full and ample preparations to defend ourselves: whereas, on the contrary, a poor and mean idea of the enemy's strength induces us to make but a scanty provision of forces against him; wherein we act as a miser does, who spoils his coat by scanting of cloth.

Projection, I believe, is here used *iovjbre-cast or preconception*. It may, however, mean *preparation*.

Perhaps, in Shakspeare'vS licentious diction, the meaning maybe —" Which proportions of defence, when weakly and niggardly projected, *resemble a miser who* spoils his coat," &c. The false concord is no objection to such a construction; for the same inaccuracy is found in almost every page of the old copy. MALONE.

9 — strain.] *Lineage*. So, in King Lear:

" Sir, you have shown to-day your valiant *strain*."

STEEVENS.

[1] That HAUNTED us —] To *haunt* is a word of the utmost horror, which shows that they dreaded the English as goblins and spirits. JOHNSON.

[a] When Cressy BATTLE fatally was STRUCK,] So, in Robert of Gloucester:

" — and that fole of Somersete —

" His come, and *smyte a bataille.*"